

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2597

Introduced by Assembly Member Cardenas
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Davis, and Zettel)

February 25, 2000

An act to amend Section 44395 of, and to add Section 44399 to, the Education Code, relating to credentialed employees, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2597, as amended, Cardenas. Teachers: national certification fees: subsidy.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to administer the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program to provide merit awards of \$10,000 to teachers who attain certification from the national board.

This bill would change the name of the program to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Subsidy and Incentive Program. The bill would require the department to provide qualified applicants a subsidy not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost of the fee for certification by the national board. The bill would require the department to make it a priority to designate certain of the subsidies for numerated purposes.

The bill would, for the 2000–01 fiscal year and every fiscal year thereafter, appropriate \$460,000 to the department for those purposes.

Funds appropriated by this bill would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44395 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:
3 44395. (a) The National Board for Professional
4 Teaching Standards Certification Subsidy and Incentive
5 Program is hereby established to award grants to school
6 districts for the purpose of providing merit awards to
7 teachers who are employed by school districts or charter
8 schools, are assigned to teach in California public schools,
9 and have attained certification from the National Board
10 for Professional Teaching Standards. The amount of the
11 merit award shall be ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per
12 teacher and shall be of a one-time nature on behalf of any
13 one teacher.
14 (b) The State Department of Education shall
15 administer the program and shall develop, in consultation
16 with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing,
17 certification and merit award information, criteria,
18 procedures, and applications, all of which shall be
19 submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.
20 Amendments requested by the State Board of Education
21 to that information, criteria, procedures, and applications
22 shall be made before the dissemination of information
23 and the award of any grants under this article.
24 (c) The State Department of Education shall
25 distribute to school districts information developed
26 pursuant to subdivision (b) about the certification
27 process established by the National Board for Professional
28 Teaching Standards along with application materials and



1 instructions for the merit award program. Each school
2 district shall make every effort to ensure that teachers
3 employed by the district or by charter schools affiliated
4 with the district are informed about the program and can
5 acquire the necessary application and information
6 materials.

7 (d) School districts are encouraged to provide for
8 adequate release time and support for a teacher to
9 complete the certification process. As a condition to
10 providing that release time and support, a school district
11 may require that a teacher serve in a mentor teacher
12 capacity.

13 (e) For purposes of this article, “school district” means
14 school district, county board of education, county
15 superintendent of schools, a state operated program, such
16 as a special school, or an education program providing
17 instruction in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12,
18 inclusive, that is offered by a state agency, including the
19 California Youth Authority and the State Department of
20 Developmental Services.

21 SEC. 2. Section 44399 is added to the Education Code,
22 to read:

23 44399. (a) The State Department of Education shall
24 administer a program to provide qualified applicants
25 with a subsidy not to exceed one half of the cost of the fee
26 for certification by the National Board for Professional
27 Teaching Standards.

28 (b) The State Department of Education shall make it
29 a priority to designate subsidies pursuant to this section
30 for teachers in ~~areas of~~ *schools with* low socioeconomic
31 conditions and hard to staff schools, as defined by the
32 department.

33 SEC. 3. (a) For the 2000–01 fiscal year and every
34 fiscal year thereafter, the sum of four hundred sixty
35 thousand dollars (\$460,000) is hereby appropriated from
36 the General Fund to the State Department of Education
37 for the purposes of Section 44399 of the Education Code.

38 (b) The State Department of Education may use a
39 maximum of five percent of funds appropriated for



1 purposes of Section 44399 of the Education Code for
2 administering the program established thereby.

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